

Advancing Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (ASLAA)

1.1 NAME OF THE PROJECT :

Advancing Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (ASLAA)

1.2. DATE

Agreement /contract finish:

Tuesday, 29 September, 2015

Agreement /contract start:

Friday, 30 September, 2011

Report period start:

Tuesday, 1 January, 2013

Report period finish:

Sunday, 31 March, 2013

1.3 Prime Partner:

Rainforest Alliance

1.4 NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER

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1.7. USAID Mechanism Number:

AID-OAA-A-11-00055

1.8. Overall Program Description:

Rainforest Alliance and its partners, AIDER in Peru, and ECOLEX in Ecuador, have designed the Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (SL) project with the goal of conserving biodiversity in two landscapes, Sucumbíos/Napo, Ecuador and Cusco/Madre de Dios, Peru. In the Sucumbíos/Napo landscape we are working in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve (CWR), the Limoncocha Biological Reserve (LBR) and the buffer zone of Sumaco – Napo Galeras National Park. Within CWR, we are working in the Putumayo, Cuyabeno, and Shushufindi cantons, from the bridge over the Cuyabeno River east to the Siona communities of Tarabeia, San Victoriano, and Puerto Bolívar, for a total of 128,000 ha. The LBR is located in the Shushufindi canton close to Yasuní National Park. In the buffer zone of Sumaco- Napo Galeras National Park we will work in the Hatun Sumaco parish that includes seven indigenous communities, including Hatun Sumaku, Wawa Sumaku, Wuamaní, Patco Sumaku, Pucuno Chico, Volcán Sumaku and Challuayacu. In Madre de Dios (MDD), we are working in the province and district of Tambopata with the the Ese Ejaz, Shipibos, Yine, Amahuaca, Kicharunas ethnicities representing approximately 75,000 ha in the communities of Tres Islas, Palma Real, Infierno, Sonene, and Puerto Arturo. In upper and middle Tambopata, we are working in the Filadelfia area with various tourism operations, representing approximately 3,000 ha. In the Cusco section of the landscape, we are working in the La Convencion and Calca Provinces, and Quellouno and Echarate and Yanatile Districts, found within the Ivochote and Laco – Yavero watershed and covering 13,500 ha (Cooperatives: Bioazul, Jose Olaya, Chaco Huayanay, Paquivo, Alto Urubamba, and Mateo Pumacahua and Asociacion Agricultura Ecologica). Our overall strategy is premised on addressing the principal threats to biodiversity and their drivers identified in the two landscapes that have the most significant impact and can be countered directly given the experience and expertise of RA and its partners in order to optimize impacts locally. The principal threats include habitat degradation and habitat loss due to wholesale deforestation or land-use conversion, while the drivers of these threats can be grouped into three areas: a) limited institutional capacity by local governments and communities for natural resource management; b) limited participation in and access to programs by local groups for resource management and sustainable production chains;

and c) weak organizational capacity and market linkages of local producers and operators to grow local economic opportunities.

2.1.1 IR1 – Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably:

The conservation of biodiversity in the two landscapes will be accomplished by addressing the principal threats to biodiversity of habitat degradation and habitat loss due to wholesale deforestation or land-use conversion.

Under AR1, sound landscape planning and use of sustainable NRM practices, our main achievements include the following:

- A preliminary draft of the actions required to develop a sustainable tourism strategy in CWR was completed by the Department of Interior. The draft will be socialized through a workshop with MAE in May.
- As a result of risk management training offered by SL in cooperation with the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), 12 risk management plans for tourism operations working in Cuyabeno were developed. These plans will be approved by the SNGR and a simulation will be realized to test the effectiveness of the proposed plans.
- A sustainable planning process between the GAD Provincial Napo and MAE Distrital regarding their priorities for the Napo province was coordinated and articulated by SL and a process to incorporate elements at different planning levels for natural resource management with an ecosystem approach was designed.
- In Peru, key impact indicators were identified with stakeholders in the Tambopato National Reserve (TNR) to measure environmental, economic, visitor and management impacts of tourism activities in Sandoval Lake. This is an important input for the limit of acceptable change study methodology that is being developed for the TNR in coordination with the Department of Tourism of the National Service of Protected Natural Areas of Peru (SERNANP); once the methodology is developed it will be promoted as a model in other similar protected areas.
- A natural resource use plan for the community of El Infierno was developed through participatory work between SL, and the leadership and community members of El Infierno. The plan was presented to the community assembly and in the future will be included in the community statutes to be used for setting policy guidelines for the use of natural resources.

Under AR2, improved environmental governance, we attained the following achievements:

- The Sucumbíos Provincial Directorate, CWR and LBR management, and the Sucumbíos Provincial Tourism Directorate agreed that the use of the CWR tourism manual that SL developed will be mandatory at the provincial level; the manual includes principles of sustainable tourism and promotes respect between actors, principles of environmental and cultural responsibility, and regulations to be applied by tourism actors.
- To improve the quality of tourism services in the Cuyabeno and Limoncocha reserves, and to help them meet the MAE naturalist guide regulations, we facilitated training for 68 participants. The training in the CWR was coordinated with MAE and World Wildlife Fund, and was focused on forming new guides and updating existing naturalist guides already working in the reserve. In LBR, the course was a first for the protected

area, but was overdue due to the recent growth of tourism in the reserve together with an absence of trained naturalist guides. With the support of the British Embassy the training included 28 people from local communities.

- In our role as advisors to MAE, SL participated in an analysis to clarify the potential of reforestation with respect to the rate of deforestation that occurs annually in the country. According to the analysis, the area of deforestation is 75,000 hectares per year on average, of which 40,000 hectares can be reforested and/or restored; the difference is linked to dynamics in food sovereignty and livelihood. This analysis creates information that is expected to allow more informed policy decisions in the future.
- In addition, SL participated in a meeting with MAE to analyze the issues revolving around the prohibition CITES species mahogany and cedar in Ecuador. The conclusion reached was that as opposed to benefiting the conservation of these species, the prohibition has created an informal market. Consequently, it was agreed that the harvesting of the two species should be regulated in order to gain more insight as to their use and dynamics in order to be able to make decision on appropriate conservation measures.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and other organizations we supported the development of a coffee roundtable in the La Convention Province in Cusco; through it we will promote the implementation of sustainable management practices for agriculture.
- A 16 year border dispute between the native communities of Tres Islas and San Jacinto in Madre de Dios was resolved by the signing of an agreement between the two communities.

Under AR3, improved sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem resilience, we attained the following achievements:

- We are providing technical support to the Cuyabeno parish, who recently obtained funding from the Fondo Italo Ecuatoriano (FIE), to reduce the increasing levels of pollution in CWR by improving inorganic waste management by communities and operations in the Cuyabeno and Aguarico watershed.
- In Palma Real, Tres Islas, and Puerto Arturo native communities in MDD, we facilitated the completion of participatory forest inventories, communal forestry planning agreements, and annual timber operations plans. The latter have been presented to the respective authorities for their approval.
- In an effort to support the diversification of income generation, we also helped the producer organization PALSAMAD develop their annual Brazil nut operation plan and carry out a non-timber forest products inventory.
- To continue supporting the incorporation of a new non-timber forest product (ungurahui palm fruits) into community forest management in Tres Islas, we helped establish and begin training an ungurahui harvesting committee.
- Three organizations (RONAP, AFIMAD and ASCART) have improved the profitability of their Brazil nut operations by improving the terms of sale with old and new customers. On average they improved their sales value by 30%, connecting the Brazil-nuts collectors with a company (CANDOR) that distributes directly to stores in the US and therefore can pay a better price.
- To ensure cohesion with the existing efforts of municipalities and companies working in the buffer zone of the Megantoni Sanctuary, we have coordinated actions with several local projects. As a result of this coordination, SL is training four technicians in Ivochote in BMP, productivity and quality and marketing. The four technicians are

funded by the projects mentioned, and are expected to train at least 117 farmers in the area.

2.1.2 IR2 - Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes :

Our main achievements under IR2 during the reporting period are related to USAID's following line of actions:

Line of action 2 - Promote the application of territorial conflict management mechanisms

- A border dispute between the native communities Tres Islas and San Jacinto was resolved by signing an agreement between the two communities; this facilitation helped to solve an issue that lasted over 16 years despite several attempts at obtaining resolution.

Line of action 6 - Providing access and dissemination of environmental and natural resources information

- SL has been integrated into the forestry and naranjilla round tables in the Napo province. The goal of the dialogue spaces established between primarily institutional entities is to carry out institutional arrangements that strengthen and institutionalize environmental governance in the province, with the inclusion of local interests in provincial policies. These roundtables will be key spaces for promoting the adoption of improved land management and livelihood practices.
- Our active presence in the cocoa roundtable in Cusco has facilitated access to the Echarati municipality, to analyze the cocoa strategic plan for the Echarati district particularly within the Megantoni buffer zone. Several meetings with municipality members allowed us to establish an agreement to jointly formulate a policy to promote sustainable agriculture supported by the county government.
- Continuing the training program for public officials in sustainable tourism in MDD, we have designed a new training module. An achievement of the program to date has been that an important discussion about the role of each institution in the development of sustainable tourism in the area and reviewing standards and practices to avoid duplication has started.

2.1.3 IR3 – Increased Capacity to Utilize PES-like and other Economic Incentive Programs :

[Enter text]

2.1.4 IR4 – Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental Issues :

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2.1.5 Support Unit Services :

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8. SUMMARY

8.1 Achievements:

A 16 year border dispute between the native communities of Tres Islas and San Jacinto in Madre de Dios was resolved by the signing of an agreement between the two communities

Three organizations (RONAP, AFIMAD and ASCART) have improved the profitability of their Brazil nut operations by connecting the Brazil-nuts collectors with a company (CANDOR) that distributes directly to stores in the US and therefore can pay a better price.

The Sucumbíos Provincial Directorate, CWR and LBR management, and the Sucumbíos Provincial Tourism Directorate agreed that the use of the CWR tourism manual that SL developed will be mandatory at the provincial level.

8.2 Challenges and Adjustments :

SL expanded the geographic area of intervention in Ecuador to include a greater part of the Napo River watershed. This expansion is in response to the recent increase in civil unrest in the CWR area, which increased the risk of danger to project staff, and reduced the probability of the project conceptual model functioning as designed.

To determine the scope of the expansion, SL carried out an extensive planning process that included collecting primary and secondary information, consulted and coordinated with MAE, USAID representatives overseeing ICAA, GIZ, the Napo Provincial Government, and potential beneficiaries in the proposed areas, and worked together with our AOR to adapt the activities in the FY13-14 WP. The adjusted activities are proposed under the same project objectives.